

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Original) A gas injection apparatus, comprising:
2 a tubular member defining an axial bore therethrough, the axial bore adapted to deliver a
3 gas into a wellbore proximate a perforation interval via an orifice; and
4 a gas lift valve attached to the tubular member, the gas lift valve adapted to regulate
5 communication between the axial bore of the tubular member and the wellbore via the orifice.

- 1 2. (Currently Amended) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, further comprising
2 a sealing mechanism to seal the wellbore above the perforation interval,
3 wherein the tubular member is adapted to engage ~~[[a]] the sealing mechanism, the sealing~~
4 ~~mechanism adapted to seal the wellbore above the perforation interval.~~

- 1 3. (Currently Amended) The gas injection apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the
2 sealing mechanism is a dual-port packer.

- 1 4. (Original) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tubular member is
2 adapted to inject a gas proximate the perforation interval of a gas-bearing well.

- 1 5. (Original) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tubular member is
2 adapted to inject a gas proximate the perforation interval of an oil-bearing well.

- 1 6. (Original) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a retrieving
2 element attached to the tubular member.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A gas lift system for use in producing a well having a
2 perforation interval, the system comprising:
3 a sealing mechanism adapted to seal the well at a location above the perforation interval,
4 the sealing mechanism having two ports therein;
5 a tubular string adapted to produce ~~the well~~ fluid from the perforation interval via one
6 port in the sealing mechanism; and
7 an injection tool adapted to ~~deliver~~ inject gas into the well proximate the perforation
8 interval via the other port in the sealing mechanism, the injection tool having ~~one or more~~ plural
9 gas lift valves for ~~injecting a~~ delivering the injected gas into the well ~~[[below]]~~ at a location
10 ~~[[above]]~~ below the sealing mechanism.

1 8. (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the tubular string comprises
2 one or more gas lift valves for injecting a gas into the well at a location above the sealing
3 mechanism.

1 9. (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the sealing mechanism is a
2 dual-port packer.

1 10. (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the well is a gas-bearing well.

1 11. (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the well is an oil-bearing well.

1 12. (Original) A method for producing a well having a perforation interval proximate
2 a formation, comprising:
3 injecting gas into the well proximate the perforation interval.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A method for unloading an accumulated liquid from a well
2 having a perforation interval proximate a gas-bearing formation, wherein hydrostatic pressure of
3 the accumulated liquid exceeds pressure of produced gas, the method comprising:

4 sealing the formation in the well at a location above the perforation interval;

5 providing a tubing string for establishing communication between surface and a point
6 below the sealing location;

7 providing a gas injection tool having a gas lift valve for establishing communication
8 between a point above the sealing location and the perforation interval below the sealing
9 location;

10 delivering gas into the well proximate the perforation interval via the gas injection tool to
11 decrease the ~~hydrostatic pressure~~ hydrostatic pressure of the accumulated liquid to a level
12 sufficient to permit gas to be produced from the formation; and

13 removing the accumulated liquid and gas from the well via the tubing string.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A gas lift system for use in producing a well having
2 perforations proximate a gas-bearing formation, the system comprising:

3 a dual-port packer adapted to seal the well at a location above the perforations, the
4 sealing mechanism having two ports therein;

5 a tubing string adapted to deliver gas from the perforations proximate the formation via
6 one port in the packer to a surface location, wherein the tubing string has a valve that is actuated
7 in response to gas pressure in a well annulus outside the tubing string exceeding a predetermined
8 level; and

9 an injection tool adapted to ~~deliver~~ inject gas from a surface location into the well
10 proximate the perforations via the other port in the packer, the injection tool having a gas lift
11 valve for ~~injecting~~ delivering the injected gas into the well ~~[[below]]~~ at a location ~~[[above]]~~
12 below the sealing mechanism.

1 15. (New) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gas lift valve is
2 arranged on a side of the tubular member to enable injected gas to pass in a radial direction of the
3 tubular member into the wellbore through the orifice.

1 16. (New) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least another
2 gas lift valve attached to the tubular member to regulate communication between the axial bore
3 of the tubular member and the wellbore through another orifice of the tubular member,
4 wherein the gas lift valves are actuated in response to different gas pressures.

1 17. (New) The gas injection apparatus of claim 16, wherein a first of the gas lift
2 valves is first actuated in response to the delivered gas reaching a first pressure, and wherein a
3 second of the gas lift valves is subsequently actuated in response to the delivered gas reaching a
4 second, different pressure.

1 18. (New) The gas injection apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first gas lift valve is
2 closed once the delivered gas reaches the second pressure.

1 19. (New) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the plural gas lift valves are
2 actuatable at different pressures.

1 20. (New) The gas lift system of claim 19, wherein the plural gas lift valves are
2 configured to sequentially actuate in response to the injected gas reaching different pressures.

1 21. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein injecting the gas comprises injecting the
2 gas using an injecting tool having plural gas lift valves that actuate at different gas pressures.

1 22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 actuating a first one of the gas lift valves when the injected gas reaches a first pressure;
3 and
4 actuating a second one of the gas lift valves when the injected gas reaches a second,
5 greater pressure.

- 1 23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising closing the first gas lift valve
- 2 when the injected gas reaches the second pressure.